White River
National Fish Hatchery Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:
Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D)
Senator James M. Jeffords (I)
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I)

Contact
Ken Gillette, Project Leader
White River National Fish Hatchery
2086 River Street
Bethel, VT 05032
Phone: 802/234 5400
Fax: 802/234 5937
TDD: 800/877 8339
E-mail: Ken_Gillette@fws.gov

Purpose
White River National Fish Hatchery biologists work in partnership with government agencies, conservation organizations and community groups to restore Atlantic salmon in the Connecticut River watershed.

Management Activities
- Conducts tours, presentations and interpretive activities
- Partners with federal, state and non-government agencies to restore Atlantic salmon to the Connecticut River basin
- Rears and maintains several year classes of broodstock, totalling 15,000 fish with size ranges up to 30 inches in length
- Processes hatchery water, including river filtration, ultraviolet sterilization, heating, chilling, filtration and sterilization
- Spawns out nearly six million Atlantic salmon eggs and receives three million eggs from other federal and state hactheries for incubation
- Hatches out eight million Atlantic salmon fry for stocking into all available habitat in the Connecticut River basin
- Uses over 3,300 excess Atlantic salmon brookstock annually for recreational fishing within the Connecticut River basin
- Marks millions of Atlantic salmon fry with DNA fingerprinting
- Provides smolts for research and fish passage studies at hydroelectric dams

Highlights
The number of juvenile salmon migrating from the Connecticut River in 1998 was the largest recorded since the restoration program began. The White River NFH produced many of these fish.

Using DNA technology, hatchery biologists and staff from the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge marked millions of Atlantic salmon fry into ten regions of the Connecticut River. Biologists study genetically linked family groups to increase the effectiveness of future restoration efforts.

Issues
Improved treatment of rearing water effluent would meet more stringent EPA regulations.

Proposed construction in water recirculation technology at the hatchery will increase smolt production and enhance future fishery restoration efforts in the Connecticut River basin.

Improved water distribution system throughout the hatchery would increase capability to culture, protect and restore species to their natural habitat.

Enclosed inside and outside rearing facilities would protect fish from predators and diseases introduced by wildlife and protect from poachers.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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1 800/344 WILD
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